



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE DATA RELEASED

Phoenix - April 11, 2019 - Today the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the 2017 Census of Agriculture results. Results are available in many online formats including [video presentations](#), a [new Census data query tool](#), maps, and traditional data tables.

The Census tells the story of American agriculture and is an important part of our history. First conducted in 1840 in conjunction with the decennial Census, the Census of Agriculture accounts for all U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. After 1920, the Census happened every four to five years. By 1982, it was regularly conducted once every five years. Today, NASS sends questionnaires to nearly 3 million potential U.S. farms and ranches. Nearly 25 percent of those who responded did so online. Conducted since 1997 by USDA NASS – the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture – it remains the only source of comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation and is invaluable for planning the future.

“The Census shows new data that can be compared to previous censuses for insights into agricultural trends and changes down to the county level,” said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. “We are pleased to share first-time data on topics such as military status and on-farm decision making. To make it easier to delve into the data, we are pleased to make the results available in many online formats as well as traditional data tables.”

Some key Arizona highlights include:

Arizona's number of farms decreased 4.6 percent from 2012. Most of the decrease was in Maricopa and Pima counties.

Harvested cropland increased 2.9 percent to 915,647 acres. Pinal, Maricopa, and Yuma counties accounted for 67 percent of the State's harvested cropland.

Land in Orchards was up 7,336 acres led by Cochise County's increase of 12,818 acres. Arizona's total acres of pecans and pistachios were 25,988 and 8,905 acres, respectively.

Land used for harvesting vegetables was up 11 percent to 145,000 acres. Yuma and Maricopa counties account for 90 percent of Arizona's vegetable acreage.

The top 400 farms in terms of value of production accounted for 90 percent of the State's \$3.85 billion total value of production. Maricopa, Yuma, and Pinal counties contributed 83 percent to the total. Vegetables, melons, and potatoes had 26.2 percent of the value, milk from cows had 22.2 percent, and cattle sales contributed 16.6 percent.

The average age of all producers in Arizona was 59.4 years. This represented the third oldest state for U.S. farmers behind Hawai'i and New Mexico. Forty-nine percent of the producers were female in Arizona compared to 27 percent for the U.S. average. Fifty-nine percent of all Arizona producers were American Indian and 4.5 percent were Hispanic.

“The 2017 Census of Agriculture provides a wide range of demographic, economic, land, and crop and livestock production information,” said Dave DeWalt, Arizona State Statistician. “Many of these data about Arizona and its counties are only collected and reported as part of the every-five-year census.”

NASS provides accurate, timely, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for "NASS Data User Community."

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